UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/609
7 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 100

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Victoria SANDRU (Romania)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 4th, 8th and 20th meetings, on 14, 15, 21 and 31 October 1996. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/51/SR.3, 4, 8 and 20).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1996 (A/51/3, parts I-III);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (A/51/267);

(c) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Trujillo Act and the Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement (A/51/87);

96-30924 (E) 121196

(d) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(e) Letter dated 28 May 1996 the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the 95th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (A/51/210);

(f) Note verbale dated 26 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/4).

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 14 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed the Committee and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/51/L.4

5. At the 8th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends", (A/C.3/51/L.4). Subsequently, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Pakistan, the Sudan and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "increasingly provide" were replaced with the words "are increasingly providing";

(b) In operative paragraph 5, after the words "the Secretary-General", the words "within existing resources" were inserted.

7. At the 20th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2 (b), after the words "to engage", the words "on a voluntary basis" were inserted;

(b) In operative paragraph 5, after the words "fifty-fourth session", the words "through the Commission on Social Development" were inserted, and, at the end of the paragraph, the words "bearing in mind possible measures to improve the reporting procedure" were added.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992 and 49/155 of 23 December 1994,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends, 1/

Recognizing that cooperatives in their various forms are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;

2. Urges Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or

---

1/ A/51/267.

belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

3. Encourages Governments to keep under review the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for cooperatives, so that they can make an appropriate contribution to the attainment of the goals of national development, including that of meeting the basic human needs of all;

4. Invites Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe annually the International Day of Cooperatives on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to continue to support the goals and objectives of the cooperative movement and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Commission on Social Development, a report containing, inter alia, information on legislative and administrative initiatives taken by countries, bearing in mind possible measures to improve the reporting procedure;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to include his findings and recommendations in his report referred to in paragraph 5 of the present resolution.